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THANKS TO THE KIDS...

NEW BUFFALO STUDENTS GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

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Berrien County Health Department, Sheriff's Office offering safe gun storage tips and locks during Child Safety and Protection Month

In recognition of Child Safety and Protection Month, the Berrien County Health Department and Sheriff's Office are reminding parents and caregivers to follow safe gun storage laws and offering free gun locks to help keep children safe.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, firearm injuries are the leading cause of death among Michigan children and teens, and most accidental shootings occur when a child is playing with a loaded, unlocked gun.

"The Berrien County Health Department is pleased to partner with the Sheriff's Office on making sure parents and caregivers know about safe gun storage and providing free gun locks," said Miranda Bronicki Dopp, BCHD's family programs manager. "We know safe gun storage helps keep children safe and prevents injuries and death."

BCHD and the Berrien County Sheriff's Office provide free gun locks on a first-come, first-served basis at BCHD's Benton Harbor office, 2149 E. Napier Ave. Gun locks are available for pickup 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday while supplies last.

The Sheriff's Office urges all firearm owners to follow Michigan's safe gun storage law, which went into effect in February 2024. The law requires firearms in homes where children live or are likely to be present to be stored in a locked box or safe or kept unloaded and secured with a locking device, such as a trigger or cable lock.

"Safe gun storage is key to keeping firearms away from curious children and preventing tragedies for families," Berrien County Sheriff's Deputy Kelly Laesch said. "Owning a firearm is a serious responsibility that requires extra caution and safety measures.

"The Sheriff's Office also encourages all parents to talk to their children about what to do if they or a friend finds a gun – whether the family owns a gun or not. Parents and caregivers can teach their children to stop, don't touch, run away and tell a grownup if they see a firearm at school, a friend's house and any other place."

The Sheriff's Office offers additional reminders for safe gun storage:

- Store ammunition in a separate, secure location from the firearm.
- Be consistent and thorough each time when storing a firearm.
- Do not share the key or code to a locked gun box with minors and unauthorized people.
- Do not store firearms in a locked car, even if you have a concealed pistol license.

Children, parents and caregivers can submit confidential tips related to school safety — such as seeing a gun at school and other criminal and potentially harmful activities — through Michigan's OK2SAY online tip form. The state's student safety program also has talking tips for parents and other resources at www.michigan.gov/ok2say.

For more information about safe gun storage, visit www.michigan.gov/firearmsafety. — STAFF REPORTS

Talk nice or silence. *— Dino N. Fatouros*

DOWNTOWN LA PORTE BUILDINGS UNDERGOING TOTAL RENOVATIONS

Two longtime vacant buildings in downtown La Porte are being extensively remodeled for future use.

One of them is a five-story structure on Monroe Street just north of Lincolnway. The plan there is to offer commercial space on the main level and apartments on the upper floors in one of the tallest buildings in the downtown, said Bert Cook, Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership.

Cook said the building has been empty for at least 20 years.

"I'm sure it's longer than that," he said.

Cook said the work is about 30 percent completed.

The other building renovation is where La Porte Sporting Goods once existed until closing over a decade ago in the 900 block of Lincolnway across from the courthouse.

Cook said the plans there also call for commercial space on the main level and about a half dozen apartments on the second and third floors. He estimated that project to be about halfway finished with completion expected in the spring.

Cook said the investment in the properties both owned by La Porte area residents will further the progress in the revitalization downtown has experienced over the past several years.

"You're going to have two very new spaces in the downtown. That's terrific. I think it just pushes that snowball we talk about. The momentum that's been created by the investment in downtown La Porte," he said. — STAN MADDUX

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Village Council approves funding difference for beach nourishment study

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

With the passage of the village's millage rate in the November election, the Grand Beach Village Council approved fully funding the difference needed to meet the contract amount for Edgewater Resources Beach Nourishment Study at their Wednesday, Nov. 19, meeting.

By a 94-78 margin, voters approved an increase in the village's General Operating millage by 3.2463 mills by overriding the Headlee Amendment and bringing the Village's current general operating millage of 5.7537 to 9 mills.

This would result in approximately $628,000 in additional tax revenue for the village to help pay for Major Unfunded Projects: Beach Nourishment, Road Improvements, Golf Course Irrigation System, and Police Station.

In June, councilmembers approved awarding a contract for an engineering study to Edgewater pending the village raises donations to fund the study in two months' time.

As of Nov. 19, council president Harry Walder said donations were $27,000 and $45,400 more was needed. Funds will come from General Fund Reserves. Walder added that they'll be keeping "close track" of any monies that come out of the reserves for any of the projects, ensuring the reserves are reimbursed.

Walder thanked the following donors: Joe Farwell, Bill and Teri Mitchell, Peter and Sheila Swan, Michael Murray, Angela and Brian Storey, Dave Hogaboom, Jeff and Kathy Donahue.

Council members authorized councilmember and streets and water commissioner Ed Sebastian to apply for a grant from the Pokagon Fund to support up to 50% of the cost of a new sidewalk along Royal Avenue from Station Road and Fairway Drive to Crescent Road.

In the future, Sebastian said he'd like to extend a sidewalk from that point to the lake and eventually to Village Hall. He added that this "connects the village's recreational facilities with footpaths," connecting the park, beaches, Village Hall, the potential future park, as well as the golf course and the Grand Beach Nature Preserve.

Council members approved the application to bind the village to Fund 50% of the sidewalk's cost, contingent on the Pokagon Fund's approval of a grant for the remaining 50%. The estimated total cost will not exceed $50,000, so the village's share of the project would be not to exceed $25,000, with a proposed grant not to exceed $25,000.

Sebastian said he has quotes from three different concrete contractors and is "confident" they can do it for a maximum of $50,000. The installation of the sidewalk would be next April.

Council members approved two motions regarding the watermain break from last month.

The purchase of a LaMotte DC1500 Chlorine Meter and supplies from USA Bluebook not to exceed $750 was approved. The village borrowed a chlorine meter from Michiana during last month's outage, and the meter will allow chlorine levels to be routinely checked when water samples are taken in the village.

A motion authorizing the council to offer residents to purchase two types of water test options for their homes performed by the Department of Public Works a) Test based on Total Coliform only $150 b) Test based on Orthophate, pH, Alkalinity, Chloride Sulfate-$200 was approved. After the water main break, Walder said some residents asked if the village would take samples from their homes and test them.

Walder asked council member Ed Brandes to investigate and put together an analysis for next month regarding a potential Verizon lease buyout.

Walder said that Symphony Towers Infrastructure has offered the village $296,000 to take over the lease the village has with Verizon for their antenna on the village's water tower. Currently, he said the village gets about $1,300 a month from Verizon for that lease, which is $15,000 annually.

Council member Peter Doerr said that "the question for these types of things is really giving up the rights for something," adding that the council has always "not wanted to take away rights for things from future councils."

The purchase of a Badger Meters 6-inch compound meter (model # RCS-DS-0078-DN) and associated hardware in the amount of $9,454.85, plus approximately $21,000 for installation and permit fees, not to exceed $31,000 for total project costs, was approved. The meter will replace the master water meter in the vault in Michiana. At the October meeting, council members approved $4,354.32

Real recognizes Real. — *Lil Baby*

to replace the existing meter in kind (4-inch meter); however, after consulting with engineers and equipment suppliers, it was decided the compound meter would be better.

A quote for $10,980 from Peerless Midwest to repair and replace the gasket on the vertical inline pump at the lake was approved.

Councilmembers approved a $4,850 contract to Dixon Engineering for the inspection of the Water Tower's interior and exterior to determine scope of work needed to prepare it for refilling in the spring.

Council members approved 2025 End of Calendar Year Salary Adjustments, which Walder said total $3,150.

Council members accepted the annual Local Revenue Sharing Board 2025 distribution in the amount of $21,671.44, which will be moved to Major Roads.

Council members approved John Larkin's tree removal request, which would involve him removing a tree on village right of way property at Glenwood and Lakeview. Larkin said he'll pay for the cost of the removal and will plant a tree or trees of the same species and dimensions wherever the council decides.

The purchase of two sets of pickleball posts/nets for $475 each, which will be paid from the Tennis Court Donations Fund, was approved.

Police chief Ryan Layman's offer to Megan Bunker regarding a new officer hire was approved.

Councilmembers approved the 2026 Health Insurance Plan for Village Employees from Buursma Agency, which Walder said is based on Option Three and is an increase in premiums of $100.

Councilmembers approved the 2026 Council Meeting and Holiday schedules.

An updated Employee Manual was approved.

Boater rescued after lakefront plunge into water

BY STAN MADDUX

A woman was rescued from the water Monday after falling off the back of her sailboat docked at the lakefront in Michigan City.

Emergency responders about 8:30 a.m. (CST) responded to a report of a possible drowning at the 800 dock in the Heisman Harbor at Washington Park.

Upon arrival, Michigan City Fire Department Capt. Jeff Bruder said a middle-aged woman fortunately with a life jacket on was discovered in the water clinging to a pylon near the dock where her sailboat was anchored.

He described her at the time as "calm, conscious and alert."

Bruder said a ladder belonging to the fire department was lowered from the dock into the water.

She made her way over to the ladder, climbed the steps on her own and was helped by firefighters onto the dock.

Bruder said she was taken to the hospital to be checked for hypothermia as a precaution because of the water temperature being 49 degrees.

"It's one of those calls we like to go on where nobody is really hurt," he said.

After winding up in the water, Bruder said her husband tried but was not able to pull her out.

He called 911 and waited for rescuers, which Bruder said was the right thing to do given the situation and civilians, in general, sometimes winding up in trouble in addition to the person they're attempting to save.

"You get a little dicey when you put two people in the water," he said.

Michigan City Assistant Harbormaster Mary Ann Pawlicke said boats at the harbor must be out of the water for the season by November 1 or the owners face a $100 fine.

She said the boat was still docked where it had been during the summer because of engine troubles.

Pawlicke said the couple was there preparing to have the boat taken out of the water and towed for winter storage when the woman slipped into the water.

"Fortunately, she had her life jacket on," she said.

Bruder said many slips at the harbor have built in steps for people to climb if they wind up in the water but not the dock where the accident happened.

He said the water temperature might seem a bit mild for this time of year, but the woman was still at risk of developing hypothermia, which takes just a few minutes to begin setting in.

She would have been in more danger had the temperature of the water been more extreme.

"Any colder or any longer she may have been experiencing more serious effects," he said.

The name of the woman and where she lives was not available.

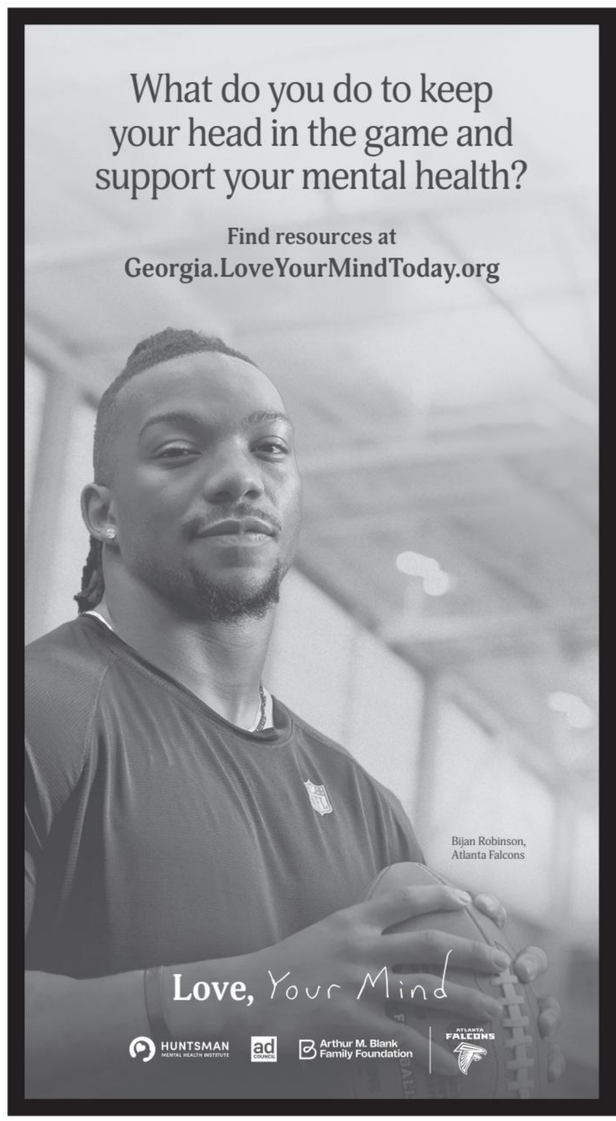
'PRANCER' SHOWINGS AT THREE OAKS LIBRARY

The Three Oaks Township Public Library will be showing the movie "Prancer" several times in December.

All shows are free, and you're invited to bring a snack.

The following shows will take place: 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6; 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13;

1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18; 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19; 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 22 and 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22. — STAFF REPORTS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ATLANTA FALCONS

SCHOLASTICS

Potential developers present on future Bison Preserve

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education heard presentations from potential private investors/developers for the district to partner with for the future PUD, Bison Preserve, on Lubke Road at their Monday, Nov. 24, meeting.

Brian Papke from Leeward Ventures said he was proposing a plan that would involve 48 apartments, which would be in four, 12-unit walkup buildings, with the buildings being "residential scale houses" and having two-to-three-bedroom layouts.

There would also be what described as 17 "in-town townhomes" with rear loaded garages and 32 townhomes that would be front-loaded ones. Lastly, there'd be 12 trade lots, which would be a designated area at the property's rear toward the end of the road that would be dedicated to a "long, one per year type of build whatever you want."

Anticipated total project investment would be $28.9 million. Papke said the anticipated delivery of preliminary townhomes would be May 2027 and August 2027 for preliminary apartments.

Trustee Denise Churchill expressed concerns to Zack Zalar from The Habitat Company that they might need to "scale down in terms of what we were looking at from that number" regarding The Habitat Company's proposed number of units.

Zalar said he'd have to "understand what that number is," adding that the proposed 150 units "brings operational efficiencies to the day-to-day operations staffing wise to bring the level of service that we like to deliver to our residents."

Churchill asked about the feasibility of keeping the buildings confined to three levels, given the area's and avoiding infringing on the wetlands. Zalar said they could do 75 units per building in a couple phases, adding that formal studies involving civil engineers would "figure out how we're going to grade the site to make the most developable land."

Zalar said they'd be transparent regarding overall costs.

Regarding board president Lisa Werner's question on ensuring they'd be able to complete the project, Zalar said that would be worked out once there was a financing package and would be part of the development agreement.

Dan Buckenmeyer of The Southwest Southwest Michigan Community Land Trust said that a Community Land Trust (CLT) is "based around a nonprofit model," with theirs having an advisory board of community leaders.

CLTs establish policies around selecting buyers and can rank them for their role and contributions in the community.

Buckenmeyer said that there're "no opportunities for people to buy second homes here, no opportunities to rent them out – you have to live in the home." Making improvements on them is incentivized.

"In return for that first buyer's opportunity to purchase an affordable home well below its true and fair market value, that buyer agrees to a fixed schedule of equity building that will limit the amount of money they make but they still will make some if they sell their home," he said.

Buckenmeyer added that this "ensures the home will remain affordable for the next buyer."

He said the "land under that house remains the property of the community land trust." The home buyer signs an 89-year land lease with the buyer and "it gives us the ability to have those controls over who moves into them and what happens at the point of sale."

Neighborhoods can consist of multiple housing styles, such as single-family housing, duplexes and even multiple unit apartments buildings.

Dwayne Whitmyer, director of the Performing Arts Center and STEAM building, gave an update on the buildings.

In the last seven and a half years, he said events at the PAC have grown from 23 to over 80 last year.

Recently, the fall play was revived with the middle school's production of "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?", which included an eight-member cast. The new Engineering for the Arts Class built the set pieces.

Support is needed "in reaching and involving community members more deeply," which includes recruiting volunteers and collaborators for plays, directing, events, groups and clubs.

The following groups use the STEAM building: Building Trades, which has been building solar heat collectors for the new shop and bee boxes for engineering class; robotics and the Engineering for the Arts class.

This past spring, the building served as a successful venue for Art Attack.

Using the MASB evaluation instrument, Werner said the board's annual evaluation of superintendent Adam Bowen "reflects an effective performance across all areas of assessment," with the board finding "excellence in governance and board relations."

She said the board "remains appreciative of the leadership of Mr. Bowen and will continue to support him in his leadership of the district."

"We are committed to continuing strategic improvements that shape a strong future for education in New Buffalo," Werner said.

Board members heard graduation will be 6 p.m. Friday, May 29, 2026.

Board members agreed to cancel the Dec. 22 meeting.

OPINION

What's Playing at the Theater in Galien?

PART 6

BY BILL BURCK

The truth is a slippery thing. You think you have your hands on it, but they're so greasy. Lubricated by all your biases, beliefs, and emotions. Even if you could get a firm grip, the truth splitsinto a million pieces and I'll be damned. Like mercury. Where'd it go?

Should I apologize? Maybe I should apologize.

I'm sorry, I thought it was theater. It was the only thing that made sense. Because if it's not theater…

Let's not go there yet.

It must be theater, I thought. How else could I interpret what I was seeing? They're telling a story with hints of corruption. Of abuse of power. Of vengeance and downfall. It will instruct us. Connect us with universal human experiences. Purge and renew us in the finest sense of a tragedy.

The staging, the format, the concept. Impeccably crafted. How could you not shout it across the fields? Ring the bells. Sound the horns. Come one and come all to the amazing theater in Galien!

Or not.

People ventured out of their homes, got into their cars, turned off US-12 onto Kiley Drive at the Dollar General. Drove past Oatsvall Construction and into the parking lot beyond. Walked through the door saying Township Office. Sat down in the blue chairs. Watched the show unfold.

Afterwards, they were polite. We'll talk soon, they said. Or, well, maybe it's theater? Let me think about it and get back to you. Like one speaks to the man in the straitjacket one doesn't want to upset.

Even the littlest things cheer you up when you're wearing a straitjacket. But the big things? Good lord, you forget you can't scratch yourself. Like when you hear someone has added a scene to the play about which you have been writing. A scene, get this. It's unbelievable. A scene, or maybe we should call it a soliloquy. Yes, a soliloquy. All about your articles. If only they would let you out of the straitjacket so you could attend.

Has a play ever addressed what its critics were saying? I mean directly. In an onstage performance? At first, the idea is thrilling. But on reflection it has a whiff of Mordor about it. An odor. Like the fumes drifting up from 55-gallon drums buried beneath desecrated farmland.

It doesn't smell right. No play dares do something like that. And even if they should dare. If it would be a stroke of genius to dare. Are there two or three actors in the world capable of portraying it quite as exquisitely as last Wednesday night? When heartfelt indignation kissed self-aggrandizing virtue signaling and made a baby called Get Off My Lawn.

A performance with the full-throated whine of a snowmobile skimming over watercross. Hydroplaning across polluted water. Desperate to avoid the deeper issues below. Issues impacting the lives of many in the audience. Issues three of those sitting at the table refuse to confront.

Which brings us back to the dilemma mentioned earlier. What if it's not theater?

Let's sleep on that idea. Seven times. For the sake of Matt Kirkus, let's raise the bar and do that. Let's gather with our loved ones and give thanks. Eat too much and eat some more.

We'll go there next week.

For the seventh year, students in third, fourth- and fifth-year Spanish at New Buffalo High School left for a one-week excursion to Spain Friday, Nov. 21. Teacher Matt Bayley said that students stay with host families and take in sights such as a cathedral in Seville, a mosque in the City of Cordoba and a castle. Including this trip, over 150 students will have traveled to Spain from New Buffalo.

What worries you most about kids and guns today?

Gun injuries and gun suicides are going up among teens. If a kid is acting angry or keeping to themselves, it's important to make sure they don't have access to a gun.

Gun injuries are the leading cause of death for children and teens in America. People often think of gun violence as a topic with no common ground, but we agree on more than we think. And 8 in 10 Americans agree that having productive conversations can help reduce gun injuries and death among children and teens.

Learn how to have the conversation at **AgreeToAgree.org**.

Sources: Gun Violence in the U.S. 2022, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. Ad Council-Bully Pulpit International Survey, 2024.

AGREE TO AGREE ad COUNCIL

Family-owned hardware chain being purchased

BY STAN MADDUX

A family-owned regional chain for over a century with stores in places like Michigan City and La Porte is being sold.

Houchens Food Group has agreed to purchase Kabelin Ace Hardware.

The company based in Bowling Green, Kentucky, is a subsidiary of Houchens Industries, Inc., one of the largest, most diversified 100 percent employee-owned firms in the nation.

Kabelin Ace Hardware has eight stores in South Bend, Walkerton, New Carlisle, Granger and two retail locations apiece in La Porte and Michigan City.

Mackenzie Kabelin Watkins said her family is proud of the business it built but it just became increasingly difficult nowadays to operate as a small independent retailer.

The stores known for their customer service will continue to function under the same name, leadership and local management.

All 150 employees will be retained during the transition.

"We knew we wanted to continue the Kabelin legacy, but we wanted to do it from a position of strength while also giving back to our employees," she said.

According to the Kabelin Ace Hardware website on Facebook, the partnership will give Kabelin Ace new tools and support to make larger investments in their stores in areas like building improvements, expanded product selection, enhanced customer service and long-term planning.

Watkins said she also believes the acquisition will secure "the future of our company while also ensuring the longevity of our stores and serving the people that matter most, our employees and our communities."

Houchens Food Group operates more than 40 Ace Hardware stores across the country and more than 400 grocery, convenience and quick service restaurant locations.

It was announced that Watkins will continue her leadership role as director of operations for the Kabelin Ace division of Houchens Food Group.

Joe Wardman, a longtime hardware retailer following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather with the Kabelin family, will become regional operational specialist within the company to help drive interactions with customers on a day-to-day basis.

Kabelin Ace Hardware will also keep the same community minded focus at all eight of its locations and have an opportunity to open new stores in adjacent markets.

"Kabelin has built an outstanding reputation for quality service and hometown care which are values that align perfectly with our mission. As an employee-owned company, we believe in empowering local teams to continue that legacy while providing the resources and support to help our business grow and thrive," said Houchens Food Group President Greg Rush.

According to the Kabelin Ace Hardware website, the company dates back to 1912 when Edward Kabelin bought an interest in the Webber Hardware Company.

He and his son, Russell, bought the remainder of the firm 10 years later then changed the name to Kabelin Hardware Company, Inc.

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The Bears are making sure that they are at the top of most of Chicago's sports fans minds.

Sure, the schedule has favored them. Sure, they have pulled off some miracle finishes.

But all that has accomplished is gaining confidence between the coaching staff and the players, and making the team believe in themselves.

Sunday was the first day they were playing a team, the Pittsburgh Steelers, with a winning record, and the pundits thought that the Bears hot streak was over.

Chicago fans didn't agree.

First of all, fans desperately wanted to beat Pittsburgh's quarterback, Aaron Rodgers, but he couldn't play because of an injury. The old Packer once said he owned the Bears, and they've been trying to disprove that since. But a win was even more important, and the Bears started the game with more than half of their defense not able to play.

This included all three of their starting linebackers, and very early in the game, they lost one of the backups, so they were down to their seventh backer. Things weren't really looking up. At halftime, the Bears were down by four.

The Bears and their fans have discovered one thing this season, and that is no matter what the score is at halftime, the Bears are still in the game.

Defensively, they were playing their hearts out. Even though they were short handed, they held the Steelers in check until the offense could score a couple of touchdowns and grab a ten point lead.

The offense this week was led by Caleb Williams who threw three touchdown passes, and D.J. Moore who caught two of them and Colston Loveland who caught the other one. Kyle Monangai barreled into the end zone for the final score.

Most Sundays this season, it's been up to the offense to win the game in the fourth quarter, but this week, Pittsburgh had the ball with less than two minutes remaining in the game and they only needed a field goal to tie the score.

Well, the defense stepped up and Jaquan Brisker knocked down a fourth down pass to seal the victory,their fourth in a row and seventh in their last eight.

So here we sit, 11 games into a 17 game season.

While nothing is guaranteed in the National Football League, if the Bears can split their last six games, they will probably make the playoffs, ending up with twice as many wins as they had last season.

One of my friends said that it was pretty cool that we now have a team that just might beat anyone. It sure seems like it's been a long time since we could say that.

The players deserve a big share of the team's success, but to me, coach Ben Johnson is responsible.

The next game is against the Eagles on the day after Thanksgiving.

Erma Bombeck said, "I come from a family where gravy is considered a beverage."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

There is something in the nature of tea that leads us into a world of quiet contemplation of life. — *Lin Yutang*

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A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Animation Industry Royalty

By late afternoon I'd finished reading the M.A.S.K.series bible. Ray came to

DIC and picked up his copy, promising to finish it by tomorrow so he could start writing story springboards. If all went well, I'd start writing springboards later tonight. I opened my office door to see movers packing boxes and carrying them from the studio. The move to the new studio had begun.

I was eager and excited to see the new offices in Encino, but right now I had a big job ahead with M.A.S.K. and that was what I focused on. I took five steps from my office when my focus completely shifted.

I see him moving slowly past cubicles ahead of me and I instantly recognized him. He was animation industry royalty.

Anyone who knows anything about animation knows the name Mel Blanc. And anyone doesn't know his name certainly knows his work. The 'Man of a Thousand Voices'was unquestionably the greatest and most prolific voiceover artist in the history of the entertainment industry. Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, Pepé Le Pew, Elmer Fudd, Yosemite Sam and, of course, Heathcliff the Cat were just a few of the countless characters Mel voiced during his six-decades-long career.

Working with Mel's son, Noel, at Blanc Communications was my first job in the industry. I rushed to greet Mel. But I slowed as I got closer, seeing the wheeled oxygen tank he was pulling. I reintroduced myself, telling him what a pleasure it had been for me to have worked with Noel many years ago. Mel brightened at the mention of his son. But I could see he was tired, so I didn't overstay. We shook hands, he wished me well and he moved slowly toward the exit.

A few moments later, one of DIC's sound technicians told me Mel had been at the recording studio earlier doing ADR work. ADR stands for 'automated dialogue replacement' which means re-recording dialogue so it can be used to rectify a problem encountered with the original recording during post-production.

It was common knowledge that Mel was suffering from emphysema as a result of years of heavy cigarette smoking, so the ADR work was tough on him. The technician told me Mel was in the middle of delivering one of Heathcliff's dialogue lines when he paused, running out of breath, then raised his oxygen mask to his mouth, labored to draw a couple deep breaths and continued the dialogue delivery, perfectly matching the volume and cadence that led up to it. I shook my head in awed admiration. When I asked the technician what they'd do about the pause where Mel had drawn on the oxygen to catch his breath, the technician shrugged and said, "We'll fix it in post."

I wished someone could fix Mel in post, but he was past that. Still, even in the throes of emphysema, Mel Blanc had the talent, drive and dogged determination to perfectly nail that line of dialogue. It was inspirational. It was what being a professional and a legend was all about.

Sadly, Heathcliff the Cat would be his last voiceover character.

I looked to the door, saw a staffer holding it open for him, saw Mel walking outside. It was the last time I'd see the legend. Fade to Black...

HOROSCOPE

NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 3, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Any limitations you are experiencing you are likely imposing on yourself. If you want to experience more freedom of expression, then you have to make it happen. The fear of not being physically appealing or that others don't want to share things with you may be at the root of your reservations.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Relationships may feel a bit painful now and there's a good possibility some tears will be shed over the sense of separation from loved ones, but this is giving you the opportunity to clear out past commitments and start fresh. The real issue is your own feelings of not being loved or accepted.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

You may feel very restricted by the guidelines you have to follow within a certain group or network. Work past restrictions by dealing with people one on one, rather than dealing with things over social media or in the public eye. The key to healing is to make peace in your relationships.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Get out there and enjoy your life more. There is a lot of spontaneous options opening up but you need to go for them. This is a great week to incorporate interesting options into your agendas. The doors of perception open when you're laughing and having fun.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

There is a lot of sensitivity around home and family commitments this week. Your sense of obligation may be challenged or an outright denial by others will challenge your ideas surrounding the role you assume in your family. The real issue is linked to your need to outshine the competition.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Being overly passive in relationships may have consequences this week. If you don't speak up people will overstep or assume you are taking responsibility when things don't go their way. Be sure you are communicating directly and openly, to guarantee you won't be misunderstood.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

It will be easy for you to spend money to feel better this week. Retail therapy might be good for buying presents, but is it really how you want to deal with not feeling valued personally? Just because you buy expensive gift for others, it does not mean they will give you more affection.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

It will be easy for you to spend money to feel better this week. Retail therapy might be good for buying presents, but is it really how you want to deal with not feeling valued personally? Just because you buy expensive gift for others, it does not mean they will give you more affection.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

This is a very abundant time for Scorpio and your manifesting powers are at an all-time high. Be sure you are using this gift wisely by spreading love and good cheer, rather than engaging competitive activities or aggressive dialogue. You are sensitive to any talk about your image or personal style.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

You may be relying too much on the opinions of others and could be overly sensitive to what social media outlets say now. Their validations or lack thereof may disappoint you. In response you might smother others in the hopes of feeling needed.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

Get out of your comfort zone and approach authority figures. Don't wait for problems to arise or financial obligations to increase to motivate you to reach out to bosses or higherups. If you make the first move, they will be more open to your opinions and ideas.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Questions of value and self-worth could keep you up worrying this week. You may feel like people don't value your hard work or don't see how much effort you are putting forth. The key to overcoming these insecurities is learning to love yourself more and taking more pride in your talents.

After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music. — *Aldous Huxley*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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		9					3	
	2					1		6
	1	4						
					7			8
	3			1				2
	6		1				4	3
			9					
7	4	8					2	

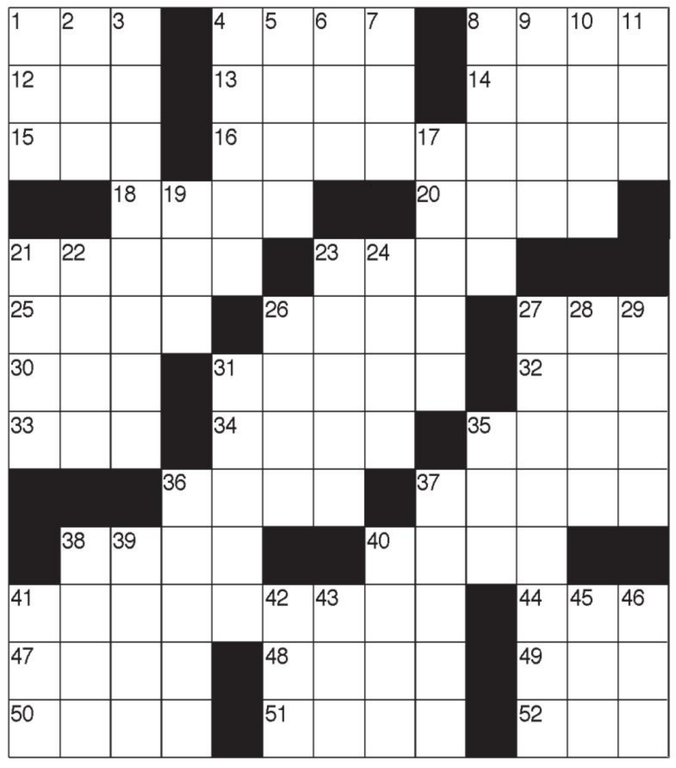
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Fairy queen
4 This (Sp.)
8 Crazy
12 Presidential nickname
13 Exigency
14 Footless
15 Amer. Standard Version (abbr.)
16 Camera lens
18 Old-fashioned oath
20 Edge
21 Electric unit
23 Volcano crater
25 Gamin
26 Belgian (abbr.)
27 Rhine tributary
30 Newspaper
31 Right-hand page
32 "Blue Eagle"
33 Laconian clan group
34 Noun-forming (suf.)
35 92 (Rom. numeral)
36 Feminine (suf.)
37 Song of praise
38 Fr. chalk
40 College entrance exams
41 Punk
44 Tally
47 Indian lady
48 Freshwater worm
49 Harem room
50 Rosebud, e.g.
51 Weekly (abbr.)
52 Recommended daily allowance (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Sheep's cry
2 Away (pref.)
3 Drink
4 Toward center
5 Sow
6 To or from a distance (pref.)
7 Soft drink
8 Brother of Abraham
9 Atop
10 Carry
11 Carriage
17 Destroying (pref.)
19 Prate
21 Gambling card game
22 Arabic (abbr.)
23 Birthplace of Mohammed
24 High (Lat.)
26 Inclination
27 Antecedent
28 Melody
29 Teem
31 Keck
35 Totem pole
36 Sp. hero (2 words)
37 Rice field
38 Work hard
39 Alb (arch.)
40 Earth
41 Television channel
42 Compass direction
43 Tree
45 Append
46 Sheep's cry



‘Home for the Holidays’ concerts on tap for next month

The public is invited to celebrate the season with a holiday concert, “Home for the Holidays.”

This year, the Harbor Country Singers, a community outreach of the School of American Music, will perform on two dates and in two different venues to share the spirit of the holidays throughout the region.

Performances will be at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert and at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive in Three Oaks.

Both concerts are free and open to the public, though donations are warmly appreciated. Tickets for The Acorn performance can be reserved in advance at acornlive.org.

In the spirit of giving, attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations for Neighbor by Neighbor, a local nonprofit connecting vulnerable residents of southwest Berrien County with vital resources and services. Requested items include pull-tab cans of soups, stews, tuna, ravioli, spaghetti, or other easy-to-heat meals.

The festive program will feature a joyful blend of Christmas and Hanukkah music, including “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” “Sing Noel, Noel!,” “Home for the Holidays,” the Barenaked Ladies’ rendition of “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/ We Three Kings,” “Carol of the Bells,” “Silent Night,” “Dreidel Song,” and many more seasonal favorites.

The concerts will showcase the Harbor Country Singers alongside talented area musicians, including a brass quintet and a piano, guitar, and bass trio, creating a rich and uplifting holiday sound.

“We’re incredibly excited to be bringing this concert to the community,” said Maggie Martin, director of the Harbor Country Singers. “It’s a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season with your family and friends!”

The Harbor Country Singers is a community choir dedicated to bringing people together through the joy of music. The ensemble is supported by a grant from the Pokagon Fund, the School of American Music, community donations, and the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, which provides rehearsal and performance space.

For more information, contact the School of American Music at 269-409-1191 or SchoolofAmericanMusic@gmail.com, and follow the School on Facebook or visit schoolofamericanmusic.com. — STAFF REPORTS

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LOCAL INTELLIGENCE New Buffalo Times — SINCE 1942 —

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES BUT MEDICINE DOES

When it comes to natural health care, making an herbaltea out of leaves is where some of the most powerful medicines come from.

Fruit bearing tree leaves are the greatest form of natural medicine in our pharmacopeia. The nutrient content can't be beat. Best of all, most of them are free to us. For most of these leaves, you will pay big dollar to purchase them. Why not become knowledgeable and forage your own.

Gingko Biloba trees can help with symptoms of memory loss and have powerful antioxidant properties. It has been studied and used for anxiety, depression and cognitive decline such as dementia and Alzheimer's.

Hawthorn trees have long supported cardiovascular health. Both the leaves and the berries have been used for chronic congestive heart failure, blood pressure, angina, and strengthening the heart muscle.

Mulberry tree leaves are high in phenolic compounds that are known to improve blood sugar issues, circulation, inflammation and has also been shown to reduce cholesterol and fatty liver.

Oak tree leaves offer high concentrations of tannins. They are known to be astringent, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory. Tannins help to bind liquids and inhibit intestinal secretions, so it was used in Folk Medicine for diarrhea and dysentery. Also for fevers. Crushed fresh leaves or bark decoctions can be applied as a poultice or wash to promote wound healing. Sitz baths or topical applications are used to soothe pain, reduce inflammation, and tighten affected tissues such as hemorrhoids and varicose veins. I like to make an oak leaf concentration and put in my homemade toothpaste. Its astringency tightens gums, heals infected and receding gums and stops bleeding.

Although not actual trees, the leaves of many shrubsare also medicinal. Blackberry, leaves offer powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects due to compounds like flavonoids and tannins. They help soothe digestive issues like diarrhea, support immune function, improve skin health, and promote heart and cognitive health. Raspberry leaves support uterine health and easemenstrual cramps due to compounds that tone uterine muscles.

Some medicinal leaves are obviously not available in specific areas, but wherever you are on the globe, there is beneficial healing medicinal trees around you. You can find pine trees most anywhere. When I teach the "Eat the weeds free food and medicine" classes, I teach the 5 different parts of pine trees that is medicine. Pine needles are higher in Vitamin C content than oranges. The bark contains antioxidants that are used for cardiovascular health. The resin has antiseptic properties that is used for wound care. Pine cones have been used historically for coughs and colds. The essential oil has been used for respiratory and has powerful antibacterial properties.

So, no matter where you live, there is medicine around you. Get educated, get some books on tree leaf medicines and learn what is around you. Do your own research and know what will work for you individually. Maybe this free medicine can be worth more than money. I like to collect and dry to have leaves available all winter.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK

RAFTER

Rafter is growing, and learning. She is about a year old, vaccinated and spayed. She's getting comfortable with other cats, but will get more comfortable with you with proper knocks on the kennel, treats she likes, and chin scratches. Once Rafter is out, she'll be your shadow, and soon on your lap. With winter approaching, she may be your favorite space heater. Make Rafter part of your home today.

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DEATH NOTICES

THREE OAKS – Eugene Dracopol, 90, of Union Pier passed away on Thursday, November 20, 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

THREE OAKS – Judith Lynn Stafford, 62, of Galien passed away on Sunday, November 23, 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

THREE OAKS – Tammy Wilder, of Three Oaks passed away on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

High school students pack up boxes of items

High school student senate members pose in front of boxes of items

Students gather with Karen Muckey Martinez in front of the truck

New Buffalo students give back to the community

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

As was tradition, students at New Buffalo Area Schools have shown that they're thankful for what they have this November by giving to others in the community.

At New Buffalo High School, members of the New Buffalo High School Student Senate have been holding a food drive.

Advisors Amy Quick and Beth Scoggin said that they collected items, which included nonperishable ones, for about a week and a half.

This year, items will be donated to Neighbor By Neighbor in Union Pier, with the organization specifically requesting certain items that are needed. In years past, they've collected for Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry.

"This year, Neighbor by Neighbor reached out to us and asked if we'd be willing to help," Quick said.

Members of Student Senate were asked to stay after school last Tuesday and pack up the boxes of items. The next day, Chuck Lonske, custodial staff member, delivered the items.

Charlee Churchill, one of the sophomore presidents, said that the food drive is an easy giveback initiative that makes a big difference.

"Obviously, prices are up right now and it's hard to get food and things you need around the holidays because everything is sold out everywhere," she said.

Harper Bowman, one of the Senate's junior presidents said that being involved in Student Senate has been a rewarding experience.

"(It's a) lot of giving back to the community and helping out with stuff around New Buffalo," she said.

Senate members put on the annual Empty Bowls dinner, which gives back to Blessings in a Backpack, which will take place Friday, Dec. 12. Members also put on the districtwide 5K every spring, which last year raised money for Berrien County Cancer Services. Next month, they'll be shopping in Michigan City for items for anonymous families in need for Christmas.

Senate members are freshman through seniors and must apply to serve. This year, there are around 60 members. Members are required to do six hours of community works every year, which helps fund the student dances and Homecoming weeks.

"They get to plan the dress up days, but they also do one community service project per trimester," Scoggin said.

At New Buffalo Elementary School, each grade was collecting items for its Stuff a Truck food drive with 97.5 Y-Country.

Nonperishable food items and other items, such as shampoo and toothbrushes, were also collected. Items will be donated to the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency.

Karen Muckey Martinez, Spanish teacher at the elementary school who's also in charge of the senate, said that students were collecting items for about two weeks.

This is the second year Student Senate has been involved.

"They've gone around and gone into the classrooms and talked to the kids and helped me pass out flyers and they're going to help me pack up the boxes and get them onto the truck," she said.

Fifth grader Clara Penny said that people in the community will benefit from the items.

"I thought it was nice because people who don't have these things are going to get them," she said.

Fifth grader Trip Heywood said he was honored to be part of the project.

"I admire how we're helping people in need and people who don't have these things now will have them available to them," he said.

Students are voted on yearly to serve as representatives on the senate.

This year, students will also be participating in Empty Bowls. Other projects include stuffing bags with candy at the city fire station to distribute during the annual Halloween Parade; Popcorn Day, during which they hand out popcorn to each classroom and students pay a quarter for it to help pay for other projects; the upcoming Hats On day, where students will pay $1 to wear a hat and students will decide where to donate the money; making Christmas treats for teachers and Recycling Day every other week.

"We go into all classrooms and take their recycling bins and we dump them into the recycling trash bins," fourth graders Lexie Willey said.

This year, students also did a "Don't Clown Around and Do Drugs" – themed Trunk or Treat for Red Ribbon Week, where the high school senate donated candy.

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